

## **Dolphinarium Essay Competition**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Secondary School**



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**Age: 13**

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**Form 2**

### **Disagreement to the Dolphinarium**

Our Prime Minister, Honourable Allen Michael Chastanet, has made several declarations, which he believes will have a positive outcome on our beloved country. One of these bold statements is the building of a dolphinarium in the heart of our national landmark, a place of natural beauty and history, Pigeon Island. Although this may not seem harmful on the surface, many St. Lucians are infuriated by this proposal. I, Mendel Nathoniell, am here to share my concerns as a citizen of St. Lucia as to why our Prime Minister should not execute this project.

I shall begin this protest with what most people would call the most crucial point, and that is, the captivity of wild animals, especially mammals and how it should not be condoned. For a brief moment, contemplate the position of you as a human being, taken unwillingly from the comfort of your home and forcibly transferred to a compact and cramped area, along with other individuals whom you have never laid eyes on. This seems abominable doesn't it? Well, this is precisely what would happen to the innocent and independent dolphins. In addition, dolphins, along with innumerable other aquatic creatures, especially those that are mammals, like us, deserve a long lasting life in the vast expanse of their natural marine habitats without any obstructions or detriments created by humans to take their freedom away from them.

When tourists from first world countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom (where we gain most of our income from the tourism industry) visit St. Lucia, they are expecting to relish the natural beauty of our country. They would not anticipate having to witness dolphins or any other animal for that matter, in a manmade environment. Tourists, especially those who live a great distance from the water, enjoy the experience of viewing dolphins and other marine creatures in their natural habitat where they are unharmed by humans. Furthermore, in first world countries, dolphinariums are already at their disposal at zoos, amusement parks and the like. Having a dolphinarium at what tourists would expect to be a natural paradise, would be unnecessary and irrelevant.

Additionally, having a dolphinarium would also affect the livelihoods (jobs) of locals. Here's why. As I previously stated, tourists demand natural beauty and to offer them that luxury, we have occupations such as whale and dolphin watching operators. These people have the duty of journeying throughout the marine environment via boats, to display to tourists, these

creatures in their natural habitat. By opening a dolphinarium, this will not only deprive the tourists of witnessing utter natural beauty but, more importantly, would lower the income rate of whale and dolphin operators. Those tourists that decide to visit the dolphinarium, would be denying the whale and dolphin operators of potential earnings. Besides having to pay their bills, purchase food items for themselves and their families, they still need enough money to keep their operation going. Put yourself in the shoes of a whale and dolphin watching operator if the dolphinarium is built.

All animals defecate and this is a natural process which is not harmful to the environment or anything living within it, as long as it is not gathered up in one area. When dolphins defecate in their natural environment, their faeces are spread throughout the water, become diluted and are not considered lethal substances. However, in the case of a dolphinarium, where there are many dolphins in the same general enclosed area, the faeces assemble and become concentrated. This reduces the quantity of available oxygen in the water and also increases the likelihood of the creatures getting sick. This, in turn, means increased use of unnatural medicine, such as antibiotics, which can be more harmful to the wider marine environment, including humans and marine creatures, when contaminated water flows outside the enclosed area.

In conclusion, the building of the dolphinarium is unacceptable and has many drawbacks to it which affect human and animal health, livelihoods, the freedom of marine creatures and the impression that visitors can have of us and our simply beautiful island. While the respect the office of the Prime Minister, I'm sure that many St. Lucians, including myself, could all agree in saying "nou faché!"